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President Wilson to Be Urged to Pardon Great Spiritual Leaders Now in Prison at Atlanta

President Wilson May Quickly Take Up Pardon of Rutherford and His Associates

UNITED STATES SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN AND GREAT MULTITUDES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS INTERESTED IN EARLY DECISION OF PRESIDENT IN CASE OF LEADERS OF INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION NOW IMPRISONED AT ATLANTA.

On the return of President Woodrow Wilson to Washington one of the greatest problems with which he will immediately be confronted is a pardon and vindication for J. F. Rutherford and his associates now in prison at Atlanta, Georgia. A movement for the release of these spiritual apostles has taken form and is growing at a tremendous rate, while at the same time thousands of letters are pouring in upon United States Senators and Congressmen at Washington urging these statesmen to take up at once the cause of these men whom it is charged have been deprived of their freedom on a mere pretense of fact.

The conviction of these remarkable men grows out of certain paragraphs in the final volume of a series of books, the first of which began nearly forty years ago and the remainder covering largely the richest thought included in the principal sermons and life work of the late Pastor Russell.

From 1884 until his death in 1916, Pastor Russell edited and published The Watch Tower, a semi-monthly journal, devoted exclusively to Bible teaching. In 1886 he published volume 1 of his Bible Commentaries and in the preface of that volume announced that there would be seven volumes of the commentaries to be complete with the seventh volume. He wrote much of the matter for volume 7, but died without having published it, saying on his deathbed that someone else would complete that work. At a representative meeting of the I. B. S. A. throughout the world Joseph F. Rutherford was elected as successor to Pastor Russell as president of this religious society, and during the first year of his administration volume 7—namely, "The Finished Mystery," was published. A few isolated pages in this book form the basis for the prosecution of Rutherford and his associates, resulting in their incarceration in the United States penitentiary. The charge in the indictment was a conspiracy to cause insubordination, disloyalty and mutiny in the army and navy, brought under the war measure known as the espionage act. The character of these men and their conduct and habits prior to, as well as following the war, will bear upon the question of intent with which any act or thing as charged was done.

Pastor Russell was very intimately known in Pittsburgh where he resided and where the great religious work of which he was the founder had its early beginning.

So astonishingly did the fame of Pastor Russell spread that his sermons and religious works became known throughout the world. Since Pastor Russell was a businessman in Pittsburgh and while thus engaged began his career in Pennsylvania nearly a half century ago, it is thought most fitting that United States Senator P. C. Knox, of Pittsburgh, and United States Senator Boies Penrose, of Philadelphia, be urged to lead the work in Pennsylvania. In addition to United States Senators, Congressmen-at-large M. M. Garland and Colonel Thomas S. Crago, both residing in the Pittsburgh district, are being flooded with letters from all over the state beseeching them, on the arrival of President Wilson, to bring the injustice of the retention of these men at Atlanta, to the attention of the President, showing the latter that any intention of a wrong doing against the Government or any attempt of violating the laws of the United States was farthest from their thought.

Not only are the United States Senators and Congressmen of Pennsylvania being importuned to see the President, but United States Senators and Congressmen at Washington are being appealed to through letters being written to them by their constituents in the various states and congressional districts throughout the United States.

Literature is being distributed throughout the entire country urging every admirer as well as follower of the great Pastor Russell to

"Write your United States Senators and Congressmen, United States Senator W. E. Borah, Washington, D. C., and Senator Hiram W. Johnson, Washington, D. C., as well as the Governor of your State, urging them to look into the case of eight International Bible Students who are now being held in the Atlanta Federal penitentiary for publishing 'The Finished Mystery,' a book explaining the prophecies of Revelation and Ezekiel? Will you also use your influence to have these sincere Christian gentlemen released from prison, now that war is over? Surely it does no one any good to keep these honest men in jail."

But few pulpit orators could command the attention that was lavished upon Pastor Russell and multitudes throughout the country read his sermons in the daily papers on Monday morning during his life time. They were attracted by his stirring messages which were freighted with such keen candor and striking interpretations that frequently they brought upon him the wrath of his ministerial brethren whom he had awakened from their lethergy and even these today are urging upon United States Senators and Congressmen to bring to the attention of President Wilson the real facts which have been used to deprive these men of giant intellect of their liberty.

It is charged that public sentiment against the defendants and their associates in general, was worked up on the theory that they were German agents, spreading German propaganda. This, it is held, is absolutely false.

The latter part of February, 1918, secret service men seized the books of the treasurer of the Bible Association on the pretext that the association was carrying on propaganda with German money. For five weeks their experts examined those books and found that not one cent came from German sources.

The attention of the statesmen at Washington are also being called to what is regarded as the most unfair methods practiced against these spiritual leaders when a present which had been given Pastor Russell years previous was used to prejudice the mind of the reading public throughout the world against Rutherford and his associates.

Some few years before a friend had presented Pastor Russell with a small wireless receiving instrument. There never was a sending instrument with it.

When the United States entered the war the police of New York gave notice that all wireless instruments should be stored away. The one in question was stored away in April, 1917, all equipment being at that time completely removed, but in fact it was broken and totally out of commission long before that. When the secret service men seized the books as above stated they called for the wireless. It was brought out of storage, the dust removed and the officers took it away. Although they know the instrument was useless, was only a receiving instrument at best, with no sender at all, and no equipment, yet they had the press association send and publish all over the world a message that a powerful wireless capable of sending a message across the Atlantic had been discovered on the building of the I. B. S. A., and doubtless used by them to communicate with the Germans and which had been seized at night by federal officers.

It was seen to that this dispatch had wide publication and while it was known to be a deliberate, willful and vicious falsehood, it was used for no other purpose, it is claimed, than to work up public sentiment against the Christian Bible students in order that

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The seven great men whose retention at Atlanta, Georgia, is arousing the American people and whose pardon will be among important matters to be presented to President Wilson upon his return to the White House from the Peace Conference in Paris.

Great Bible Scholars Interpret Prophechies in Different Light While Entire World Is at War

MEN OF GREAT INTELLECT SOUGHT NO POLITICAL HONORS NOR ADVANCEMENT IN MATERIAL ACHIEVEMENT—SPIRITUAL MATTERS CHIEF CONCERN—BIBLE THEIR GUIDE IN WORLD'S PROGRESS

The leaders of the International Bible Students Association are men of keen intellect and they have given their lives to a religious labor in which they are profoundly interested as well as deeply concerned in the spiritual welfare of others. These men cannot in any way be called men interested in German propaganda, nor can it be assigned to them that they had selfish motives. They were never interested in matters political nor did they concern themselves in any of the material things, save that it had for its purpose the releasing of mankind from worldly bondage.

Since the beginning of the war the great Bible scholars of the world sought to interpret the Bible in the light of Biblical prophesies. Revelation and Ezekiel became fertile fields and as each of the nations declared war upon one or the other nations each was looked upon as adding another to the required number in order to complete the prophesies to which the Bible pointed. Even the New York World shortly after the fall of Jerusalem, published a cartoon of a boy with an "Extra" headed, "Jerusalem Fallen," asking Grandpa, who sits with a Bible in his hand, "Now, what'll happen, Grandpa, that Jerusalem's fallen?" "Just a moment, son, I'll tell you as soon as I find it here in the Bible." Surely, when cartoonists point to the Bible it was time for Christians to assertain what the Oracles of God have declared.

The questions is asked on every hand where are there Biblical scholars who did not see in the war the most hideous pictures of the beast in Revelation. Some at first looked upon the Pope as the Anti-Christ and then upon the Kaiser. The "Beast of Berlin" became an ordinary every-day expression. Interpretations are still left to Biblical scholars who continued to declare that no matter what peace terms might be arranged in the covenant of the League of Nations there will be no peace. The question is asked who are these men at the head of the International Bible Students' Association? If Bible scholars of every denomination may differ in their interpretation is there any reason why Rutherford and his associates should not interpret from the Bible that which they implicitly believe, whether it coincides or differs from the interpretations of men like Gray, of the Moody Bible Institute, or other great Biblical scholars whose interpretations have never been questioned.

THOSE UNDER ARREST

Joseph F. Rutherford, a prominent and able lawyer, became interested in the writing of Pastor Russell. He finally consecrated himself to the Lord, and in 1907 he gave up a large and lucrative practice and went on the lecture platform under the auspices of the above religious association. Being a man of some financial means he gave his services free, supported himself and family out of his own private funds, besides donating money to aid in carrying on the work of the society. He made three extended lecture tours of Great Britain and continental Europe, visited the Holy Land, Egypt and other places of Biblical interest and was heard by many thousands. He has lectured to capacity houses in all the largest cities of America. He spent eleven years exclusively in this religious work, and at the time of his arrest was diligently directing the work of this great religious society exactly along the same lines his predecessor had pursued for forty years previous. He is doubtless the best known layman Bible lecturer in the world. He is one of the editorial writers of The Watch Tower. He was Pastor Russell's, close personal friend and associate.

W. E. Van Amburgh for more than fifteen years has held the position of secretary and treasurer of this religious society, and has devoted the best years of his life to Christian work.

C. J. Woodworth and George H. Fisher, both of Scranton, Pa., for many years have been active members of the I. B. S. A., and co-laborers of Pastor Russell. Both men of splendid ability aside from their wide knowledge of the Bible. After the death of Pastor Russell these two gentlemen were assigned the task of preparing for publication volume 7 of the studies in the Scriptures and known as "The Finished Mystery." Mr. Fisher is also a member of the board of directors of this religious society and associate editor of The Watch Tower.

F. H. Robison, associate editor of The Watch Tower, is also a lecturer of wide reputation. A. H. MacMillan and R. J. Martin are Bible lecturers, well known throughout America. Mr. MacMillan was a member of the board of directors, while Mr. Martin was office manager of the society which employed a large number of Christian

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PRESIDENT WILSON MAY QUICKLY PARDON RUTHERFORD

(Continued From Page 1.)

the sleuths may be able to make out a case against these mighty men of God.

It was about this time the public press announced that it had been discovered that the I. B. S. A. was putting out a seditious book under the title "The Finished Mystery," in violation of the espionage act.

As soon as the board of directors of the Bible students had been made aware of an attempt on the part of some to misinterpret the efforts of their association, a special representative was immediately sent to Washington to ascertain wherein "The Finished Mystery" contained objectionable matter.

He was directed to the censor department of the army intelligence bureau and after going over the book with three members of that body was advised that pages 247 to 253, which is an explanation of Rev. 16:13 and quotations from Rev. John Haynes Holmes.

Immediately the few pages in question were ordered removed from all books offered for sale, not because it was believed that they contained anything violative of the espionage law, but because the association's officers did not wish in any manner to act out of harmony with the wishes of the government. It was thought that ended the matter with references to the books, but not so.

Many Arrests Made

Within a few days the department of justice began to make arrests all over the country of colporteurs for offering Mystery." Three officers of the I. B. S. A. went to Washington and had a lengthy interview with a representative of the department of justice, and repeatedly requested that branch of the government to state wherein the book violated the law, and declared their readiness to print a new edition omitting the objectionable features. The department of justice would only reply: "It is not our duty to advise any one but government officials. We prosecute violators of the law." Finally the interview ended by the representative of the department of justice saying: "If the association cared to do so it might have its attorneys take up the matter with them." A few days later the attorneys of the association called at the department of justice with the result as was thought that the matter would be dropped, and the arrests of colporteurs cease. Attorneys advised the association accordingly.

But the arrest of young women and men continued and many were thrown in jail without bond and without formal charge or trial.

The most vicious agents it is claimed, through the Press, were busy working up public sentiment, publishing and republishing the wireless lie and other false statements such as "Hun Agents," "Hun Propaganda," etc. Naturally, this led to mob violence. Bible classes and religious meetings were broken up, the teachers and leaders chased from one town to another by mobs headed often by men who claimed to be officers of the law, some being tarred and feathered while others were beaten and cruelly used. Property and books seized without warrant and many deeds of violence done. This continued until the 8th of May, 1918, when Joseph F. Rutherford, W. E. Van Amburgh, C. J. Woodworth, George H. Fisher, A. H. MacMillan, F. H. Robison, R. J. Martin and G. DeCecca were indicted and arrested. The indictment charged that defendants some time between April 6, 1917, and May 8, 1918, had unlawfully conspired and agreed together to cause insubordination, mutiny and disobedience in the army and navy of the United States. The overt acts charged being the publication of "The Finished Mystery" and writing letters to young men subject to military draft.

1918. By that time excitement over the war was at fever heat and it seemed but necessary to charge one with being in league with the enemy in order to secure his conviction. There was no possibility of deferring the trial even for sufficient time for defendants to prepare their case.

The statesmen at Washington and others, augmenting the forces who have been enlisted in urging the President to release these men are aware of the facts in the case wherein it is claimed the government proved not one thing showing a conspiracy among defendants. "The Finished Mystery" was offered in evidence and the few pages that had been removed read, but the court would not permit the whole book to be read to the jury which if read would convince them that the book is what it claims, an explanation of the Bible.

It is very apparent that the principles of the I. B. S. A. as set forth in the writings of Pastor Russell, and in harmony with the Bible, prevent its consecrated members from engaging in war. Briefly stated, they hold and teach that the government has the right to declare war and draft its citizens; that anyone of the world may engage in war, but when one consecrates himself to the Lord and is accepted of the Lord, he cannot then take human life; but he has agreed to be governed by the word of God which says, "Thou shalt not kill;" that if a consecrated Christian violates his covenant of consecration by willingly killing another he thereby forfeits his own eternal existence and is forever lost, hence holding these principles he is precluded from engaging in war.

Congress recognized the right of such persons and inserted section 4 in the selective service law for the very purpose of covering such cases, thereby providing that no such person should be compelled to engage in any military service except such as the President might define and declare non-combatant service. It will be recalled that President Wilson did not define non-combatant service until in the spring of 1918.

Members of the I. B. S. A. had long had the habit of writing Pastor Russell about all questions relating to their private affairs. Being unable to attend personally to all such correspondence he assigned a part of this work to others. The same practice continued under the administration of Mr. Rutherford.

When the time came for classification under the selective service law, naturally members of the association wrote their head office for advice. Mr. Rutherford and his co-laborers aided such in preparing their affidavits as required by law, setting forth the principles or creed of this religious association. This was done in pursuance of section 4 of the draft law. The late General J. F. Bell, in December, 1917, called on Messrs. Rutherford and Van Amburgh, and fully discussed with them the draft law as relating to religious, conscientious objectors. The general at that time stating that it was his understanding that the President would not define non-combatant service until some future time. A notice covering this point was published in the "Watch Tower" for December, 1917.

All the letters written by defendants, officers of the association, were letters of advice concerning the legal rights of members of the I. B. S. A. and written in answer to inquiries made by such members as to how to keep the law. Not a single letter was written advising or counseling disobedience or insubordination or mutiny. On the contrary, as soon as President Wilson made public his definition of non-combatant service it was published in the "Watch Tower" (about May) and through the same channel all were advised to obey the law. While in Louisville, Ky., Mr. Rutherford at the invitation of the army officer in charge of Camp Zachariah Taylor made an address to the conscientious objectors, advising them to be obedient to the officers and accept and perform non-combatant service as defined by the President, and many of them did so.

The charge in the indictment is that defendants entered into a conspiracy —an unlawful agreement— to hinder the progress of the war by causing insubordination, mutiny and disobedience in the army and navy. Not one word of evidence was produced showing any such agreement or conspiracy, and all the defendants positively swore that they never at any time had such an agreement or understanding and further, they stated, as Christians they fully accepted the Bible as God's Word; that Jehovah more than 2,500 years ago had foretold this world war, and they could not as Christians even attempt to hinder it, their position being that as followers of Jesus they must keep hands off. A conspiracy to hinder the war being positively against their religious convictions and teachings, they could not think of such a thing.

EVIDENCE CIRCUMSTANTIAL

The prosecution to establish a conspiracy relied on circumstantial evidence, namely, the publication and wide circulation of The Finished Mystery, the B. S. M., and writing of letters. To warrant a conviction the jury must find that defendants published and distributed this Bible literature with the intent or purpose of interfering with the army and navy; when, in fact, this Association had been engaged in the same work continuously for nearly forty years before the war. The Finished Mystery was promised and expected as early as 1886 and was practically all written before the war. The number of volumes issued is fully explained by the fact that the preceding volumes of the series had a far greater circulation than had been reached by The Finished Mystery, and those having other preceding volumes would naturally take the seventh, The Finished Mystery.

The B. S. M. containing the Fall of Babylon had not a word that could be construed in violation of the Espionage law, but it contained an advertisement of The Finished Mystery, and it was claimed for this reason it was part of the conspiracy, when in truth it was put out in pursuance of the policy of the Association followed for years. The real feature of it that caused the trouble but which could not be claimed as violating the law was that this B. S. M. exposed the fallacy of Romanism as set forth in prophecy, and predicted its downfall.

The case came on for trial in June, 1918, when the excitement was at its highest point concerning the war. Many sober, fair-minded persons who heard the testimony declared a conviction impossible. Before defendants could be guilty it must be proven and found that they entered into an agreement or conspiracy to cause insubordination, disloyalty and refusal of duty in the military forces of the United States, and to accomplish this purpose that they published The Finished Mystery and wrote letters with the intent to cause insubordination, disloyalty and refusal of duty, and this must be proven by evidence beyond a reasonable doubt. There was no evidence whatever that defendants entered into any agreement or conspiracy to cause insubordination, disloyalty and refusal of duty, therefore the Court left it to the jury to infer such conspiracy from the mere fact of publishing The Finished Mystery and the writing of a few letters answering questions concerning the draft. On the other hand, the eidence was undisputed that The Finished Mystery was published as the result of the arrangement of the Association made thirty years before the war, and the sole intent in publishing it was to explain the Bible, and there was no thought in the minds of the defendants to interfere with the war. If these men are guilty, then Pastor Russell was guilty, because the design to publish this book originated in his mind as early as 1886, and all the members of the International Bible Students' Association would be guilty because they looked forward to the time when they could have and distribute the book, and they did distribute it when published. It is really unthinkable that men could be convicted in America of a crime based upon such evidence. The jury returned a verdict of guilty and defendants were sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment.

In pronouncing sentence Judge Howe said, "Preachers of religion when sincere are more dangerous and therefore the only reasonable thing for the court to do is to make the sentence of these men severe. The Evening Post, New York, commenting on this, said: "In the opinion of the court the religious propaganda which these defendants have vigorously advocated and spread throughout the nation, as well as among our allies, is a greater danger than a division of the German army. . . . A person preaching religion usually has much influence and if he is sincere he is all the more effective. This aggravates rather than mitigates the wrong they have done."

APPEAL FOR BAIL DENIED

After uttering these words Judge H. B. Howe, of United States district court in Brooklyn, sentenced the religious persons before him to twenty years each in prison with one exception. It was necessary, he said, to make an example of those who sincerely taught this religion, which, like that of the Mennonites and the Quakers and many other sects, forbids the taking up of arms. They were guilty plainly of having urged men to follow what they considered the teachings of the Lord and to apply literally the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." So the jury could do nothing less than find them guilty of having violated the statutes of the country whatever may be the correctness or incorrectness of their attitude toward the moral and religious law. We trust that teachers of religion everywhere will take notice of this judge's opinion that teaching any religion save that which is absolutely in accord with statute laws is a grave crime which is intensified, if, being a minister of the gospel, you should still happen to be sincere. There is no doubt that Judge Howe made his sentences severe enough; they are about double those imposed by the kaiser upon the socialists who has been trying to upset his wicked regime and three times longer than many sentences imposed upon would-be regicides.

Defendants appealed their case immediately and applied for bail pending appeal, but bail was denied. These gentlemen have been in prison since June 20, 1918, and their case is not yet heard. Shortly after the attorney, a Knight of Columbus, who began and went through with the prosecution was given a gold medal on which was engraved the coat of arms of the United States. Doubtless it came from his Catholic admirers. This same attorney has delayed the hearing of the appeal by holding up the record in the case for some months while defendants linger behind prison bars.

Has it come to the point in America that high, noble-minded, peaceable Christian gentlemen can be railroaded into prison and denied bail pending their appeal because they dare to tell the truth as they see it? Will America tolerate religious persecution such as Rome practiced during the period of the wicked inquisition?

Since the trial of these men there has been a studied effort on the part of certain officials to keep the facts out of the papers. Even The Watch Tower, the official organ of the International Bible Students, was warned by secret service agents that nothing must be published favorable to the defendants. The purpose seems to be to bury these men in prison, deny them their constitutional rights and hold them there and keep the public in ignorance of the facts. These men are not criminals in any sense of the word. They are Christian gentlemen of the highest type, yet are compelled to daily associate with criminals of the vilest kind. They are taken away from their Christian work, to which they have given their lives, and shut up in prison, there to slowly die, and for what reason? Because their views of the Bible honestly and sincerely expressed do not conform to those of some others. These men are true patriots because they have without money and without price devoted their lives to the welfare of their fellowmen. Their imprisonment is unjust, un-American and unrighteous. The very rights for which the fathers of this republic fought are denied these men. Even if their religion did interfere with the war (which is scarcely conceivable), the war has ended.

Why should they suffer further? Is it the desire to make martyrs of them to satisfy the grasping and intolerant spirit. The liberty-loving people should demand the immediate release of these Christians. If they can be held in prison the cry is the principles of religious liberty have ceased to exist in America.

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President Wilson's Call for Competent Aid Met by Students

MEMBERS OF ASSOCIATION DID NOTHING MORE THAN TO AID MEMBERS TO COMPLY WITH TERMS OF THE LAW.—THOUGHT OF CONSPIRACY FOREIGN TO THE MIND.

The President of the United States called upon all persons who were competent to aid young men in preparing their papers and applications for classification. Members of the International Bible Students Association throughout the United States applied to the officers of the Association to aid them in getting their proper classification. These gentlemen; the defendants, did nothing more than to AID MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF THE LAW. They aided in making out applications and affidavits and writing letters of advice to those who requested such aid. Yet these facts were relied upon by the prosecution, together with the publication of "The Finished Mystery," to show that defendants had entered into conspiracy to cause mutiny and insubordination in the army and navy. The thought of such a conspiracy was foreign to the minds of the defendants. They never had a wish or a desire in any manner to interrupt the Government in the prosecution of the war.

The law provides that no such conscientious objector can be compelled to engage in any service except that which the President declares to be non-combatant service. It follows that there would be no service for such until the President did declare what constitutes non-combatant service, and as soon as the President made such declaration "The Watch Tower," the official publication of the Association, published the President's declaration in full and advised all its readers to comply with the law. We quote from the issue of May 15, 1917:

"The fundamental law of the land recognizes that every man may exercise liberty of conscience. In substance, it provides that every man may choose his own religious belief and may worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. To worship God means to render full obedience to His holy will. To obey His will means to be governed by His law. Good men differ as to the meaning of God's law, and herein is where the law of the land justly recognizes that each man shall be at liberty to exercise his conscientious religious convictions.

"Then we say, Let every man who can with a clear conscience go to war, do so. With equal whose religious convictions and beliefs are against war, or participation therein, should be at liberty to exercise his conscience and therefore to request that he be relieved from the obligation to bear arms. The Congress of the United States is governed by the fundamental law of the land, and acting as the agent and servant of the people, has recognized the right of man to exercise his conscientious religious convictions against engaging in war. So what we are here saying is not speaking against the Government; but, on the contrary, we are calling attention to the right and liberty the Government recognizes and guarantees.

"Thank God for the privilege of living in the United States! While we all recognize that it is not a perfect government, yet it is the best of all earthly governments. Everyone who lives under the flag of the United States should be loyal to that Government as against all earthly governments. No citizen of this country could be a Christian and do violence to the Government of the United States. To be loyal to the Law of God he must render unto the United States Government everything that is not in contravention of the Divine Law.—Romans 13:1-9."

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

Mr. Rutherford, the President of the Association, at the request of Colonel Clohman of Camp Zachary Taylor, addressed the conscientious objectors there, advising them of their duty to be obedient to the law and take non-combatant service, and the Colonel publicly thanked him for the address. How could he have been engaged in a conspiracy to oppose the Government in the war? Mr. Rutherford and the other defendants delivered public addresses each Sunday, and not one word of disloyalty was spoken but in the highest terms of commendation of President Wilson. And with all this it is insisted he was in a conspiracy to oppose the Government!

There was no attempt made by any officer or anyone else to induce anyone to become a member of the International Bible Students Association, nor to induce any of its members to refuse service to the Government.

At the trial there was a total absence of any evidence tending to show that any conspiracy ever existed between the defendants to cause mutiny or insubordination in the army or navy; in fact, each one not only testified that he never had any such agreement, but that the matter was never thought of by them.

Furthermore, these gentlemen, having given the best years of their lives to religious work, and to that exclusively, were so busily engaged in it that they had not even taken notice that an Espionage law had been passed by Congress. For the first time it was called to their attention when objection was raised to The Finished Mystery, and then the publication of that book was immediately stopped.

The law provides that before anyone could be guilty of its violation there must be a wilful act done with the INTENT to cause mutiny, insubordination, etc. At the trial there was a total ABSENCE of evidence showing any such intent on the part of the defendants. On the contrary, the evidence conclusively showed that their sole purpose and intent was the teaching of the Bible truths in which they had been engaged for years.

G. DeCecca, an Italian clerk in the office of the Association who served Italian classes, was joined as a defendant in the indictment charging conspiracy. He wrote a letter to his own brother as to his view of the proper attitude of a Christian, relative to combatant service in war. He had nothing whatsoever to do with the publication of The Finished Mystery, yet he was convicted and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for conspiracy.

VERDICT RESULT OF PASSION

There was no evidence showing a conspiracy ever existed between the defendants to cause insubordination, mutiny, etc., in the army and navy. There never existed any occasion for them to enter into such a conspiracy. For thirty years before the war The Finished Mystery had been promised and expected. For more than thirty years before the war the members of the International Bible Students held conscientious scruples against engaging in war because of their belief in the teachings of the Bible. How then could it be held that these men published the book as the result of a conspiracy? Such is impossible. The trial and verdict was the climax of a hatred of the Bible Students of long standing, instigated by the clergy. By misrepresentation they had worked up a public sentiment against these Bible Students. Their repeated accusations caused an investigation, and public pressure manufactured by the clergy induced the prosecution. At the time of the trial excitement due to the war was running so high that it is clearly seen that the verdict was the result of passion. During the days of the trial great crowds surged through the streets of Brooklyn and around the Borough Hall, with bands playing and banners flying, shouting for the war. Public sentiment was worked up to a white heat against anyone charged with a violation of the Espionage Act, and it was an easy matter to procure a verdict against such. As an evidence of the widespread persecution of these Christian people by the clergy we cite a few instances as follows:

PERSECUTIONS

International Bible Students in all parts of the country have suffered persecution for their fidelity to the Lord and their zeal in declaring the blessings that are coming to mankind through his kingdom. In a town in the State of Oregon the Mayor and two clergymen organized a mob, chased one of the lecturers of the Association out of the city and followed him to a neighboring town. The lecturer escaped, but the mob caught the friend who accompanied him and covered him with a coat of grease and tar.

In the State of Washington one Bible Student was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for sending a copy of The Finished Mystery through the mail. In Globe, Arizona, two men were chased out of the town, finally caught and thrown into jail because they had copies of The Finished Mystery. At San Bernardino, California, three men and one lady (colporteurs of these religious books) were arrested and sentenced to three years in prison, because they were offering for sale The Finished Mystery, a strictly Bible commentary, and that after the pages in question had been removed. At tarred, feathered and beaten with clubs. In Arkansas one lady was arrested, thrown into a filthy jail and kept there for some days without bond. One man and his wife in the same place were jailed for days without even any charge ever being made against them. In other places some were taken to creeks in the night time and ducked in the cold water, and everything in their homes destroyed. In Colorado a man wearing a uniform of an army officer broke up quiet meetings at Canon City. In Wheeling, West Virginia, officers threatened the Bible Students with imprisonment unless they surrendered to the officers all their books, the Studies in The Scriptures.

At Los Angeles clergymen made their boasts that the Bible Students would be arrested and held without bond. Some of these clergymen went about to owners of apartment houses and tried to induce the owners to dispossess tenants who are members of the International Bible Students Association. A raid was made upon the headquarters of the Bible Students in that city, and all their literature, including Bibles and hymn-books, was seized and carried away. Twenty-six of the Students were arrested for having in their possession The Finished Mystery and Kingdom News, and were put to great expense of money and time defending themselves in Court. The trial resulted in a disagreement of the jury; and these men are still under bail, awaiting a second trial. At Portland, Oregon, a Bible Student was arrested and held in jail twenty-four hours. The case was dismissed by the United States Commissioner because it was so manifestly an outrage.

One noted evangelist stated: "We have been for thirty years trying to get these Russellites and now we have them."

The Bible Institute of Los Angeles, headed by Dr. Torrey, has persisted in the persecution of the International Bible Students from pulpit and by printed pamphlets.

Immediately following the death of Pastor Russell The Christian Index, Baptist, among other things said of him, said: "Pastor Russell is dead but the Christian World does not mourn." Commenting upon this the Jeffersonian editorially said:

"Are there no Christians among the Russellites? We would not feel justified in saying that. There was a time when Baptists were not considered Christians; and they were slaughtered by other professors of Christ, for not professing in the same manner that the slaughterers did.

"When Arnold of Brescia was burnt for being a Baptist in principle, the papal court of Rome could have published a statement to the effect that 'the Christian world does not mourn.'

"When the original Calvinists died in Paris, on St. Bartholomew's Day, the papal court not only did not mourn, but went in splendid procession to Roman Churches to sing Te Deums, in

(Concluded on Next Page)

BAIL WAS DENIED THOUGH MANY ERRORS IN TRIAL

(Continued from Page 2)

these men and to release them.

THIRD: By admitting them to bail while their case is being heard by the Appellate courts.

Let every citizen of the United States who is of this opinion join with his neighbors in a petition to that end. We also suggest that you write personal letters to your Congressmen and other influential men, calling upon them to aid in the release of these men. Any and every one who desires to aid in this work of procuring their release should write their statesmen.

Help us and we will help you. Subscribe for the NATIONAL LABOR TRIBUNE.

Editors Being Aroused To Investigate Truth in Rutherford et al. Case

NEW JERSEY PAPER AND "THE SCRANTONIAN" AGREE THAT ONE OF FIRST THINGS PRESIDENT WILSON SHOULD DO IS TO PARDON FOLLOWERS OF LATE PASTOR RUSSELL—MANY OTHER EDITORS GIVING SERIOUS ATTENTION TO FACTS IN CASE AND FAVORABLE COMMENT IS ABUNDANT.

Since the signing of the armistice in November editors who gave but a superficial glance to the case of the followers of the late Pastor Russell are now going more deeply into the details of the case. This is having its influence and there is little to fear but that this great army of moulders of public opinion throughout the nation will see the justice of urging President Wilson on his return home to pardon the eight men who were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment for alleged violations of the Espionage Act.

The Scrantonian, like the National Labor Tribune, believes in fair play, and the editorial comment of the Scrantonian undoubtedly reflects the position of the great army of editorial writers in this country when it says, "The Scrantonian has no interest in the sect founded by the late Pastor Russell, and cares nothing for the teachings of the great Bible exponent. We have no affiliation with the cult or whatever it may be called ... but the Scrantonian believes in fair play." Thus the Scrantonian proceeds to quote from a New Jersey publication which shows that editors are being aroused to go deeper into the details of the imprisonment of J. F. Rutherford and his associates. The editorial comment from the Scrantonian is as follows:

Scranton, Pa., Sunday, December 15, 1918

TIME TO PARDON THE "FINISHED MYSTERY" EDITORS

A New Jersey paper of recent date has the following, that is worthy of the consideration of every man who believes in justice:

> About one of the first things that President Wilson should do is to pardon the followers of the late Pastor Russell, who were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment for alleged violations of the Espionage Act. Some people think these men are more sinned against than sinning.
>
> That the administration will seriously consider this hint if the matter is properly presented at Washington there can be no doubt. It seems to conservative people that the imprisonment of the Russellites was a mistake that bordered on injustice. It will be remembered that a number of men, two of them from this city, engaged in the work of completing a book that was being written by Pastor Russell at the time of his death. Certain passages in the book, which in the main is a jumble of references to the Bible, denounced war on general principles.
>
> When the attention of the editors was called to what seemed disloyal utterances they quickly withdrew the "Finished Mystery" from circulation and offered to re-write it, or suppress it entirely until the end of the war with Germany. They declared that they had no thought of committing a disloyal act. They showed conclusively that they were devoted to the Stars and Stripes and would never think of placing an obstacle in the way of the advance of the government or doing anything that would hamper the work of the officials at the time engaged in recruiting the United States Army.
>
> But unfortunately attention had been called to the book at a time when patriotism was at its highest pitch and the feeling against the German propagandists was most intense. These men were arrested and held to bail. Then they were taken to Brooklyn, N. Y., and tried, and from the first it was apparent that their case was hopeless. They were quickly convicted and sentenced to long terms in Federal prisons. Only a short time before this a young foreigner, who had sneered at a recruit who had joined the United States Army and had advised the recruit to desert, received for his disloyalty a sentence of three months in the United States courts in Scranton. Yet the courts of Brooklyn held that the few lines that appeared in "Finished Mystery" decrying war, lines, by the way, that would probably never have been read by those of the enlistment or drafting age, were more dangerous than the scoffs of the mischievous young foreigner who was probably pro-German at heart!
>
> Comment is unnecessary on these interpretations of the law.
>
> When the Russellites were sentenced several months ago it would have been useless for anyone to attempt to secure modification of their punishment. Public sentiment was too warm against anything that looked like an attempt to hamper the Washington government. But it is different today. And it seems time to make reparation for the error of classing these honest and loyal men, who might perhaps be religious fanatics, with red-handed criminals who for money secured from the German government stood ready to stir up dissension, burn buildings and commit murder in the interest of their employers.
>
> The Scrantonian has no interest in the sect founded by Pastor Russell, and cares nothing for the teachings of the late Bible exponent. We have no affiliations with the cult or whatever it may be called. But the Scrantonian believes in fair play, and conservative people everywhere who are conversant with the proceedings beginning with the arrest of the "Finished Mystery" editors and followed by their trial, conviction and sentence, must admit that the alleged offense did not call for any such punishment as was meted out.
>
> The war is over now. It is time that the men who were innocent of any intent of disloyalty be released from the prisons in which they are confined. There are plenty of disloyal ingrates in the internment camps today who can take their places if it is necessary to keep the Federal prison lists filled.

Wisdom of the World And Golden Age of Peace May Have Bad Mix-Up

CIVILIZATION WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE—WHERE ARE ITS BOASTED CLAIMS—SOME SWEET DAY RACE WILL HAVE A LOOK BACKWARD—DEATH OF CHRIST MEANS ALL ARE TO HAVE CHANCE TO LIVE

CIVILIZATION WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE

A recent cartoon in the Knickerbocker Press, Albany, N. Y., labeled "What Do You Mean, Peace?" shows a picture of the earth out in space, giving us a bird's-eye view of prevailing disturbances which cause clouds of smoke to ascend from apparently bursted bombs or volcanoes from every country in sight—except one. In the smoke the cartoonist states the trouble: One says "Near War in Chile;" another says "Spartacan Revolt in Berlin;" and the storm brewing in the United States is two men chasing one another with hatchets, one labeled "Drys" and the other "Wets." The exception to the rule where the dove of peace seems to have found a nesting place has a signboard which reads, "The Most Peaceful Spot on Earth," and this sign is stuck right into the heart of Darkest Africa.

Where is Civilization's boasted claims?

Is it true that the world is getting better?

Some sweet day the race will have the opportunity of looking back on this transition period and view it with saner minds. Let us here emphasize the fact that the backward glance shall not only be for those who pass through the trouble, but for everybody. God purposes a resurrection in the millennial day, and Christ as Ruler and Controller of earth's teeming millions is to destroy Death by releasing every member of the race from its bands—which means that all are to live again, have a new try at life with the prospect of having its reward bestowed upon the earnest and conscientious seeker. This opportunity does not guarantee life everlasting, merely the favorable chance to get it at the hands of our dear Redeemer. This "time of trouble" might figuratively represent Jordan, and the peaceful times just beyond Canaan. As Joshua led Israel across Jordan into Canaan, the land flowing with milk and honey, so the antitypical Joshua, Jesus, will lead the World through the antitypical Jordan into the antitypical Canaan—the Golden Age of Peace on earth, good will to men, a land flowing with "fat things, marrow on the leas." When the race gets over into Canaan they shall be privileged to view this side of the Jordan and see the walls of water of Jordan as they shall have passed through.

What will they see?

They will see that God made a little picture of a very big thing about 2,500 years ago. When Israel was dislodged as a world-power and carried away captive to Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar, losing their national life until it is to be restored under the Messiah, God recognized the heathen king as a world-wide sovereign, gave Nebuchadnezzar some visions in dreams which the prophet Daniel interpreted, showing us that God had in mind to give the world over to Gentile rule in rapidly deteriorating governments—gold, silver, brass, iron, clay, explaining that Babylon was the "gold" kingdom. In a way Nebuchadnezzar represented the whole period of Gentile supremacy. Nebuchadnezzar later lost his mind, went crazy, ate grass like the ox, roamed the fields like a wild ass; his hair became matted, his finger nails grew out like bird's claws, and for all the world resembled the "wild man from Borneo."

Why do we continue to tickle ourselves under the chin and prate about being better than our forefathers? From the time of Adam there has been a steady, persistent impairment of mental pabulum, and consequently a softening of the brain that has put the reasoning faculties sadly out of poise. We dislike to own it, 'tis true, but we are face to face with the facts.

Anyone exercising implicit faith in Jesus Christ as our Redeemer, practicing in the daily walks of life heavenly wisdom, getting a keener sense of divine justice, and in the depths of his heart worshiping the Almighty in the beauty of holiness, having a gratitude for his Creator which calls out spontaneously veneration and reverence, is measurably immune from mind disorders and the natural deterioration consequent to the fall of man. These are the exceptions; they are few.

The reason why so few can see this plain biblical proposition is that they are emblamed and salted down in the satanic brine of Evolution—believing that man sprung from a protoplasm and worked himself up to his present high plane of super-godhood—denying the precious blood and casting the Bible into the ash heap.

The nearest man has ever been to God was in the Garden of Eden; a degrading influence crept in, the virus of sin and for 6,000 years man has been withering away; and what ails him now is that he is at low-tide. God's purposes a recovery—to place man on the "highway of holiness" under His Anointed, permitting him, if he will, to go up, up, up by Restitution processes to mental, moral and physical perfection, so that, in 1,000 years hence he may be as close to his Creator as he was in the beginning—plus a crystallized character developed through the disciplines of righteousness, purity and truth.

Are not the heathen nations—Africa, India and China—looking upon civilization, so-called Christendom, in amazement?" Is not the terrible world-war, and what is taking place amidst the cries of "peace" now, a travesty, a paradox! But, really, has Christ been preached for 2,000 years? Most emphatically NO! The Bible informs us that 1,000 years of preaching Christ shall accomplish the complete conversion of the world and the resurrection of all the dead in the greatest and grandest family reunion the world has ever dreamed of. Heathendom points the finger of scorn and charges Christianity with the horrible holocaust of our day. Is Christianity to blame? A thousand times NO! The true disciples of Jesus, very few in number, have been and are today disesteemed, ostracized, boycotted, persecuted, martyred and martyred in a thousand ways, because the world-at-large not having the truth knows them not even as they do not know the Master. The Christian does not complain at this state of affairs—he knows the reward at the end of the way is so very high and dignified that his loyalty to righteousness, purity and truth must be tested from every angle, and then he must be found faithful ere he can receive the "crown of righteousness" the Lord has in reservation for him "far above angels, principalities, powers, and every name that is named." The true Church is tested in the nighttime of superstition, ignorance and doubt, while the world in her judgment day will have a lesser reward by far, shall have its testings in the daytime—when "the Son of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; when the world shall go forth (out of bondage to Sin and Death), and grow up as calves in the stall"—becoming fat upon the blessings and favors of a condescending and magnanimous Redeemer.—Malachi 4:2.

The world today is more dishonest, deceitful, selfish and hypocritical than at any time. That people generally do not see this does not alter the fact. We are not saying that they WILL it to be so. We believe that if the people had the truth and KNEW that they had the truth there would be a right-about-face from the worshiping of demons to the true and living God. Neither do they realize they are under the influence of demons, and as long as they cannot see this fact we can hardly expect them to bestir themselves to get out from under the clutches of the devil; they are simply blinded, hoodooed, bewildered.

Would God have it any different? Not at present!

Teaching Religion May Be Serious Crime

LEARNED JUDGE SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF THOSE WHO SINCERELY TAUGHT THIS RELIGION.

Sincerity, in the wisdom of one of New York's learned Judges in the United States District Court, is looked upon as a crime punishable by imprisonment without apparently extenuating circumstances being considered.

The learned judge, in sentencing the defendants, said: "A person preaching religion usually has much influence and if he is sincere he is all the more effective."

Commenting on this, the New York Post on June 21, 1918, editorially said:

> "After uttering these words, Judge H. B. Howe, of the United States District Court in Brooklyn, sentenced the religious persons before him to twenty years each in prison. It was necessary, he said, to make an example of those who sincerely taught this religion, which, like that of the Mennonites and the Quakers and many other sects, forbids the taking up of arms. They were guilty, plainly, of having urged men to follow what they considered the teachings of the Lord, and to apply literally the commandment, 'Thou shalt not kill.' So the jury could do nothing less than find them guilty of having violated the statutes of the country, whatever may be the correctness or incorrectness of their attitude toward the moral and religious law. We trust that teachers of religion everywhere will take notice of this judge's opinion that teaching any religion save that which is absolutely in accord with statute laws is a grave crime which is intensified if, being a minister of the Gospel, you should still happen to be sincere. There is no doubt that Judge Howe made his sentences severe enough; they are about double those imposed by the Kaiser upon the Socialists who have been trying to upset his wicked regime, and three times longer than many sentences imposed upon would-be regicides."

The New York Tribune said:

> "Joseph F. Rutherford, and six of the other 'Russellites,' convicted of violation of the Espionage Act, were sentenced to twenty years in the Atlanta Penitentiary yesterday, by Judge Howe. 'This is the happiest day of my life,' said Mr. Rutherford, on his way from the court to the jail, 'to serve earthly punishment for the sake of one's religious belief is one of the greatest privileges a man could have.' One of the strangest demonstrations that the Marshall's office in the Brooklyn Federal Court has ever seen, was held by the families and intimate friends of the convicted men soon after the prisoners had been taken to the Grand Jury room. The whole company made the old building ring with the strains of 'Blest be the Tie that Binds.' 'It is all God's will,' they told each other, with faces almost radiant. 'Some day the world will know what all this means. Meanwhile let us be thankful for the grace of God that has sustained us through our trials, and look forward to the Great Day that is to come.'"

PRESIDENT WILSON'S CALL FOR COMPETENT AID MET BY STUDENTS

(Continued from Preceding Page)

praise and thanks for the bloody massacre of the Russellites of that day."

ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTS

In further evidence of a diabolical attempt to create public sentiment against these Christian men, we call attention to a certain wireless instrument. At the time the Treasurer's books of the Association were seized, the officers made inquiry about a wireless instrument and were told that Pastor Russell had a part of an instrument which was stored away. It was brought out and proved to be only a receiving apparatus, which was out of order and had been for more than a year. No instrument was installed and messages could not be sent or received, and there never had been a sending apparatus. These facts were proven to the Government officials by the manufacturers of the instrument. Notwithstanding, the Associated Press was used to send information all over the world to the effect that a powerful wireless, capable of sending a message across the Atlantic, had been found on the roof of the building occupied by these Bible Students, and that it was being used to send messages to the Germans. Such was a deliberate falsehood, and nothing could be more calculated to create an adverse sentiment against these people. The most influential daily paper in Brooklyn, religiously speaking, a paper dominated by the clergy, a paper which had been persecuting Pastor Russell to the time of his death, is responsible for this false report of the wireless being given to the Associated Press. After this the persecution increased.

When the verdict was returned, the trial judge immediately ordered the defendants to jail. Their case was appealed to the higher courts and application for bail was made. Yet bail was denied, and they were taken away to Atlanta Penitentiary, where they are now confined. This case has not yet been finally determined by the courts, notwithstanding seven months have passed since the verdict, and these men are not permitted to give bail. The case is unprecedented; and the denial of bail is clearly contrary to a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, from which we quote, as follows:

> "The Statutes of the United States have been framed upon the theory that a person accused of crime shall not, until he has been finally adjudged guilty, *in the court of last resort*, be absolutely compelled to undergo imprisonment or punishment, but *may be admitted to bail*, not only after arrest and before trial, but *after conviction and pending a Writ of Error*."—Hudson vs. Parker, 156 U. S. 277.

IT'S UP TO YOU

Do it now. Write that letter while the facts are fresh in your mind. Delay it and the task becomes a burden increasing in weight as well as indifference. Do it right now. Write.

NOTICE

Revelations, cloth, 200 pages, illustrated, 37c; photodrama cards, 40 different, 15c. Bro. Rutherford's last sermon, over 10,000 words, 25c, all post free. J. F. Dodge, Winston-Salem, N. C.

NATURE'S ANTIDOTE

Nature provides for all our needs, dumb brutes alone seem to be able to select the weed or herb necessary in their particular case. Accidentally, have discovered nature's antidote for tobacco habit, a pleasant Florida root, quickly, easily and inexpensively overcomes all forms of tobacco habit. It's fine for indigestion, too. I'll gladly send full particulars free. A. E. Stokes, Mohawk, Florida.

Write your United States Senators and Congressmen, United States Senator W. E. Borah, Washington, D. C., and Senator Hiram W. Johnson, Washington, D. C., as well as the Governor of your State, urging them to look into the case of eight International Bible Students who are now being held at Atlanta, Georgia, Federal penitentiary for publishing "The Finished Mystery," a book explaining the prophecies of Revelation and Ezekiel. Will you also use your influence to have these sincere Christian gentlemen released from prison, now that the war is over? It does no one any good to keep these honest men in jail. Write your Statesmen at once. Do it now before you forget. It is imperative.

Teaching Old-Time Religion Proved Bad For Spiritual Men

PASTOR RUSSELL AND HIS ASSOCIATES TAUGHT AND PROVED FROM SCRIPTURES THAT GENTILE TIMES ENDED IN 1914.—UNFAITHFUL CLERGYMEN DECEIVING THE PEOPLE.—MOTIVES RESPONSIBLE FOR PERSECUTION SHOWN.

THE DOCTRINE

Pastor Russell, his associates and fellowers, taught the "oldtime religion of Christ and the Apostles, which holds the only hope for human kind and which briefly epitomized is as follows: That God made the first man perfect, endowing him with power to reproduce his species and fill the earth; that before that power was exercised man sinned and was sentenced to death, the sentence being gradually executed; that during the period of execution and while man was imperfect he begat and brought forth all his children; and that for this reason all were born imperfect, "as by the disobedience of one man sin entered into the world and death by sin so death has passed upon all men because all are sinners" (Romans 5:12); that God promised to redeem man from death, and that he sent Jesus into the world for this purpose, that Jesus "by the grace of God, might taste death for every man"; that Jesus was put to death as a substitute for sinful man, thereby giving "his life a ransom for all, to be testified in due time"; that during the Gospel age God is not offering salvation to the world in general, but is selecting the church alone; that the church (which is the body of Christ and not some earthly organization) when complete will be glorified with the Lord, and then will follow the kingdom of God for which Jesus taught his followers to pray, that during his reign all mankind, rich and poor, without regard to race, color or previous condition of servitude, will have one fair and impartial trial for life; that said trial will cover a period of 1,000 years, hence it is called the millennial reign of Christ; that those of mankind who refuse to obey the righteous laws of the Christ while undergoing that trial—the wilfully wicked—will be punished with everlasting destruction; that all who willingly obey shall be granted life everlasting, being restored to the condition of perfect manhood enjoyed by Adam before he sinned; that the final punishment of the wicked is not torment, eternal in duration, but complete destruction; and that life everlasting is a reward to the obedient ones.

CLERGY AND LAITY

Pastor Russell and his associates taught and proved from the Scriptures that the Gentile Times would end in 1914, at which date the present order would begin to disintegrate, beginning with a great world war, followed by famine, pestilence, revolution and a time of trouble such as never was since the world began. (Matt. 24:21) With kindness, yet with emphasis, it was pointed out from the Bible that God foretold that a clergy class would arise, distinguishing itself from the laity or common people; that such class would establish a church or churches in name only, many members being devoid of the true spirit of Christ; that in this church nominal there would be both "wheat" and "tares," that is to say, true and false Christians, and that when the end of the age would come there would be a great separation of the two classes; that among the "wheat" or true Christians would be some clergymen, but that the majority of them would depart from the Bible teaching and mingle in worldly politics, constituting a abomination in the sight of the Lord. It was further shown that the mass of the clergymen have departed from the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles; that they do not sound forth the "glad tidings of great joy which shall [ultimately] be to all people," but instead have taught and teach eternal torment, higher criticism, evolution and like false doctrines; that the clergy have become selfish and have neglected their God-given privilege of teaching the people the truth and helping them to a better hope and a better way of living.

Under such conditions it is easy to be seen that Pastor Russell and his associates would not be popular with the apostate clergy class. This class of clergymen have said many harsh and unchristian things about Pastor Russell and the International Bible Students Association, and it is very evident that such things were said by them because they "could not withstand the truths" taught by these Bible Students.

THE FINISHED MYSTERY

Pastor Russell taught that the books of Revelation and Ezekiel in symbolic language distinguish the true church from the apostate or false church, the false church being symbolized by an unchaste woman, "a whore" (Rev. 17:1)

THE FINISHED MYSTERY deals with these two prophetic books of the Bible, explaining the same, verse by verse. It contains a very strong arraignment of unfaithful clergymen who deceived and are deceiving the people. These facts are here stated in order that the real motive that prompted the persecution of the International Bible Students may be understood. As the facts are examined it will be seen that the incensed clergy are the ones who worked up the public sentiment, taking advantage of the great world war to cry, "These Bible Students are disloyal and are the agents of the Huns."

The war furnished the occasion for action by the clergy and they took advantage of it. Early in January, 1918, a leading clergyman of Winnipeg, Canada, from the pulpit denounced the International Bible Students and their literature, stating that the matter was being called to the attention of the Attorney General. Within a few days an "Order in Council" was made, forbidding the circulation in Canada of THE FINISHED MYSTERY and other literature of the Bible Students, and to make this order effective several Bible Students were arrested and thrown into jail. The persecution was launched.

NO GERMAN MONEY

The charge was made that the International Bible Students were using German money for propaganda. It is a well-known fact that the Bible Students never take a collection, but that their work is supported wholly by those who, being interested in true religious work, gladly contribute their money. Under the excitement of war any charge would bring forth an investigation. Agitation started in Canada was carried throughout the United States and within a short time (about the latter part of February, 1918) Secret Service men of the Army Intelligence Bureau seized the Treasurer's books of the Bible Students Association, on the charge that money was being furnished it by the German Government. For five weeks experts examined every item of the books and of course discovered not ONE CENT came from a questionable source, and the books were voluntarily returned.

NOT SEDITIOUS

It has been charged times innumerable and is the belief of the general public that certain selfish interests can always get what they want sent through the public press.

The press announced that THE FINISHED MYSTERY contained seditious words, violative of the Espionage Law. That announcement was first made about the latter part of February, 1918, and was the first intimation to the officers of the Bible Association that THE FINISHED MYSTERY contained any objectionable phrases. Desiring to be strictly within the law, and to do nothing that would in any way offend the Government, the Executive of the Bible Students Association sent a special messenger to Washington to examine into the allegations. This messenger called upon the censor department of the Army Intelligence Bureau and was informed that pages 247 to 262, inclusive, contained words that might be construed as objectionable.

Acting upon this information, the Association's officers directed that no more of the books be put into the hands of anyone until first the pages above indicated be removed, and it was thought that this would end the agitation. But as soon as colporteurs began to dispose of the books, even with these pages deleted, arrests were made. Immediately all sales and distribution of the books were suspended, and thereafter none were sold or disposed of during the war. Three of the officers of the Bible Students Association called at the Department of Justice in Washington, when this agitation began, to ascertain wherein the book, with the pages removed, could be objectionable, stating to the officials that if they would indicate what part is objectionable a new edition would be issued, as there was no disposition to in any manner interfere with the Government. The reply received was, "You had better have your own attorneys advise you; it is not the province of this Department to advise anyone except Government officials." The Bible Students Association engaged able attorneys to examine the book. These attorneys made two visits to the Department of Justice at Washington; and as a result of their visits it was thought the matter was adjusted.

KINGDOM NEWS

Then the Bible Students Association issued a small paper known as KINGDOM NEWS, showing up the clergy as the ones who had caused all this agitation and trouble. Shortly thereafter an indictment was returned to the United States Court for the Eastern District of New York, charging the above-named gentlemen with conspiracy to cause and causing mutiny and insubordination in the army and navy, and charging as overt acts the publication of THE FINISHED MYSTERY and the writing of letters relative to the Selective Service Law. Defendants were arrested and, without being given adequate time to prepare their defense, [illegible] threats and penalties to force such a man into military service would be tyranny as hideous as that of the Roman proconsul who slew the seven brothers and their mother because they refused to eat swine's flesh.

"The conscientious objectors in disciplinary barracks or in jails represent nothing but a part of our machinery of conscription. That was a hideous bit of machinery to use, but we were at war and did not stick at means. But now the war is over, and we have scrapped the rest of our machinery of conscription, is there the slightest reason why we should keep this least defensible part of our machinery in motion? Is there the least ground for subjecting to further privations and tortures the men who have committed no crime against the State?

"No crime? But how does it come that they are serving penitentiary terms of ten, twenty and twenty-five years? That is a result of the infinite stupidity of our war policy, which we ought not to seek to justify, but for which we ought to make amends. . . .

"Men have been manacled, confined for outrageous periods in solitary confinement, thrust into a dangerous condition of physical debility, driven insane. To what end, in God's name? In order to strike terror into the hearts of draft evaders outside: that was the only plausible reason. But then, why were not these tortures conducted in the open, where they might have exerted their supposed salutary effect? Why did not Mr. Baker's War Department bulletins run something like this: 'The Department reports with satisfaction that C. O. John Smith has been so successfully harried that he is now a raving maniac, and the chances are excellent that he will never recover'?

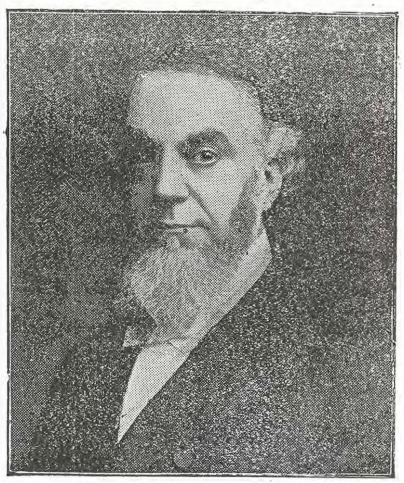
"Let us forget it, grant amnesty to ourselves for it; we were only stupid, not depraved. . . . Let us not leave it to the radicals, the sentimentalists, the sympathizers with doctrinary pacificism, to make the first move in the matter. This is not a radical issue, but an issue as old and as respectable as political liberty."

LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS

From the same publication, under date of Jan. 4, 1919, we quote the following:

"The fighting is over. America is asking the nations to consent to a peace resting upon justice. With what possible grace can we appear before the conference table as a champion of liberty when some 300 conscientious objectors and more than 1,000 prisoners under the Espionage Act are confined in abominable prisons under sentences of five, ten, twenty or thirty years for no other crime than loyalty to conviction? Surely when Americans know the truth they will demand an amnesty as the only possible proof of our sincerity in waging a war for the right of men everywhere to choose their way of life and obedience."

The International Bible Students Association is a religious organization or association coming clearly within the meaning of the above section of the



THE LATE PASTOR C. T. RUSSELL

Bail Was Denied Though Many Errors In Record of Trial

CHIEF JUSTICE WHITE CALLED HUDGINS' INCARCERATION FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT OUTRAGEOUS, UNFAIR AND UNWARRANTED.—ANCESTORS OF PRISONERS FLED FROM EUROPE TO BE FREE.

The records of the trial of President Rutherford and his associates show over 125 assignments of error, yet they have been denied bail. A marked incident in the trial was the commitment of the witness William F. Hudgings for contempt. Hudgings is a member of the International Bible Students' Association. He testified on the stand that he was unable to recall a specific occasion when he had ever seen two of the defendants in the act of writing, whereupon the court characterized his testimony as untruthful, and committed him to jail, where he was kept for six months. A writ of habeas corpus was finally obtained through the U. S. Supreme Court, and his release upon bail granted. In granting the petition for a writ of habeas corpus, Chief Justice White, according to the New York Evening Sun, declared Hudgings' imprisonment "outrageous." We quote:

"Word was received in Brooklyn today that by order of Chief Justice White, of the U. S. Supreme Court, William F. Hudgings, Secretary of the Watch Tower Bible Students' Society, who has been in jail for contempt of court since June 11, will be released on bail. Chief Justice White called Hudgings' incarceration for contempt of court 'outrageous, unfair and unwarranted.'"

Our contention is that the civil authorities should not lend aid to one religious class in their persecution of another. The ancestors of these gentlemen now in prison in Atlanta fled from Europe and braved the stormy Atlantic that they might here in free and wild America establish a place of religious liberty. Would they not be amazed to behold their descendants in prison in America for publishing a religious book! The fundamental law of the land guarantees to every citizen religious liberty and freedom of speech. America boasts of her long stand for liberty and righteousness. The United States entered the world war not for gain but in behalf of justice and righteousness and with the avowed purpose of making "the world safe for Democracy." Can these high and lofty principles be maintained while this nation holds behind prison bars highly respectable men for no other reason than their sincere faith in the Word of God and an expression of what they understand it to teach?

EVEN GERMANY HAS RELEASED POLITICAL PRISONERS

Three months have passed since the war ended; and while Germany and other European nations have released their political prisoners, the United States keeps behind prison bars, without even permitting them to give bail, Christian men who have never intentionally written or uttered a disloyal word against the Government, but who published what they honestly and sincerely believe is the true and proper interpretation of certain portions of the Bible, and who aided their brethren to KEEP the law. Does not their imprisonment seem to be wholly inconsistent with the principles of righteousness and justice?

The very most that the prosecution could say against these men is that "their teaching tended to interrupt the progress of the war." We hold that it did not interrupt the progress of the war, but for the sake of the argument grant that it did. Then we say, The war is ended. Why should these men be held in prison without bail even away from their friends, away from the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and from doing the great religious work to which they devoted their lives for years without money and without price?

We call upon the people of the United States who love Righteousness and Justice, who believe in the principles of Democracy and who are for religious freedom, to solemnly protest against the imprisonment of the leaders of the International Bible Students Association, and to demand their immediate release, which may be accomplished in one of three ways, viz:

FIRST: By a full and complete pardon by the President.

SECOND: By the President causing the Department of Justice to dismiss the case now pending in Court against

(Continued on Page 3)

GREAT BIBLE SCHOLARS INTERPRET PROPHECIES DIFFERENT DURING WAR

(Continued from Page 1)

men and women in its work. G. De Cecca was engaged as teacher and lecturer for Italian members of this religious organization.

All these men are fully consecrated to the Lord and His cause and have each been exclusively engaged in this work from ten to twenty years.

Some idea can be gained of the scope of this association's work when we are reminded that its publications of which Pastor Russell was the author attained to a wider circulation than any book ever published aside from the Bible. Many million volumes of these books are in the hands of the people.

Many years before the war announcement had been made that Volume 7 of the above series would explain the prophetic books of the Bible known as Ezekiel and Revelation, and for this reason thousands of persons were eagerly looking for the seventh with the result that before the first edition was one week old more than thirty thousand volumes had been delivered.

WHEN BOOK WAS PRINTED

Messrs. Woodworth and Fisher began the preparation of manuscript for The Finished Mystery in December 1916, and in March, 1917, had about completed it. The United States entered the war in April, 1917. The selective service law was passed May 18, 1917, and espionage law June 15, 1917. The manuscript for The Finished Mystery was in the hands of the printer on June 7, 1917, and the first edition of the book was issued July 17, 1917. Within nine months the demand was so great that 850,000 volumes had been issued, with another edition of one million six hundred thousand on the press.

For thirty years prior to the publication of The Finished Mystery Pastor Russell repeatedly through his books and The Watch Tower proved that the Roman Catholic hierarchy is the anti-Christ, so prominently named in the Bible. He and the association have always held that there are millions of honest Christians in churches, Catholic and Protestant, but that many of the clergy keep the people in blindness. His second, third and fourth volumes contain the most complete exposure of the papacy from the Scriptural standpoint that has ever been published. This he did not out of ill will, but that the people might be relieved of religious hypocrites and parasites. This aroused against him and his associates the deadly hatred of the Catholic hierarchy. He also showed from the Bible that there are many Protestant clergymen who used their religion for a cloak, deceived their congregations and walked hand in hand with the Catholic rulers. This arrayed against him this class of dishonest Protestant, as well as Catholic clergymen. He was persecuted to his death.

For many years past the I. B. S. A. annually distributed among the people free of charge, millions of papers and tracts containing sermons of Pastor Russell. The Bible Students' Monthly being one of these, was published in many languages. This practice of free distribution of Bible Students' Monthly continued after Pastor Russell's death. Early in January, 1918, The Bible Students' Monthly containing the article "The Fall of Babylon" to the number of ten million, were distributed. It contained excerpts from The Finished Mystery, especially the prophecies of Ezekiel and Rev., with reference to the Catholic hierarchy. This brought to the officers of the I. B. S. A. through the mail, many threats from Catholics in various parts—threats of arson, murder, etc. Particularly were these threats made against Mr. Rutherford.

STIRRED TO ACTION BY TRIBUNE'S APPEAL

WANTS TO SEE JUSTICE DONE—PERSONALLY KNOWS MEN WHOSE CHRISTIAN CHARACTER IS HIGH.

There has been an awakening of the public, the like of which is rarely experienced even in the greatest of movements in which the people have been aroused and there is a sentiment expressed that is extremely gratifying which gives abundance of courage to the publishers of the National Labor Tribune for the task they have undertaken in bringing to the attention of the American people, as well as the world at large, the purpose of keeping confined in Atlanta, Georgia, J. F. Rutherford and his associates.

The following letter is one of many that continue to pour into the office of the Tribune. Read it. Here it is:

February 17, 1919.
423 South East Ave.,
Oak Park, Ill,.

The National Labor Tribune,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Sir:—

A copy of the Labor Tribune fell into my hands today and I note you are interested in seeing justice given and the release of J. F. Rutherford, W. E. Van Amburgh, A. H. McMillan, G. H. Fisher, C. J. Woodworth, R. J. Martin and F. H. Robison.

Surely you are doing a good work and I trust you will succeed. I am not a member of the Bible Students, but I have known Rutherford, Van Amburgh and McMillan for some years and feel that they are as fine and true Christian Characters as ever lived.

Enclosed find money order for year's subscription to your paper.

Yours truly,
DR. JAMES J. MOUNT.

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Among the many interesting news features are the sermons of the late Pastor Russell in addition to the striking spiritual lessons prepared by the International Bible Students Association.

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